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**CONFIDENTIAL****INFORMATION REPORT**

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SUBJECT Construction of New Skoda Factory at Unicov

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25X1A

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DATE OF INFO [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. About the middle of November 1948, construction of a Skoda factory at Unicov was started by the Prostejov branch of the Czechoslovak Building Association. The factory was to cover an area of about one square kilometer and was to consist of eight ferroconcrete halls of various sizes, one administrative building, and one building which was to serve as a personnel office. All the halls were to have normal ferroconcrete foundations. Hall No. 2 was completed in May 1950, and only the ferroconcrete foundations for halls No. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 had been laid by that time. Masonry work on hall No. 1, the administrative building and the personnel building had been completed in 1949. The Vítkovice Iron Works furnished the steel required in the construction, but the steel from a dismantled factory in Rotava was used for hall No. 1.
2. In charge of the construction was an architect named Pavlik from Prostejov, and about 2,000 construction workers from Prostejov were employed.
3. A railroad connecting the plant with the double-track railroad from Olomouc to Unicov was also built. The entire plant was surrounded by a brick wall 4 m high. Electric current was supplied by the West Moravian Power Plant.
4. Production in hall No. 1 was started in December 1949 under the management of Brabec and under the direction of the Skoda Works in Pilsen. It consisted of making caterpillar tractors and mounting them with Diesel engines which were then coming from Skoda-Pilsen. In May 1950 about 10 complete tractors were produced weekly. Machinery in hall No. 1 included a large number of universal turning machines, cutting machines, grinding machines and borers. A large electric crane was located in the middle of the hall.
5. In May 1950 about 1,500 persons in three shifts were employed in hall No. 1; this number did not include engineers, foremen and office workers. Nearly all of them were transferred to this factory from Skoda-Pilsen. Only a very small percentage of local workers were employed, and they had to undergo six months' training at Skoda-Pilsen. Those who were transferred from Pilsen were housed in a former hospital at Unicov which had been purchased by Skoda for that purpose. About 30 percent of all the employees were women.
6. Morale of the workers was maintained by force, and absenteeism was punished by sentence to a forced labor camp.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-



7. The following personnel were known:
  - a. Frantisek Prochazka, head of the personnel department and a fanatical Communist Party member.
  - b. Ing. Blaha, head of the technical department; he joined the Communist Party after February 1948.
  - c. Tesek, chairman of the workers' council.
  - d. Krupicka and Valenta, cadre trustees; both are fanatical functionaries of the Communist Party.
8. The factory was guarded by four members of the plant guard who wore civilian clothing, including a black cap with a small square badge. They were armed only with pistols and were controlled by the SSB, especially at night. Commander of this guard was Benes, son of the commander of the SSB station at Jaricov. Entry to the plant was permitted only upon presentation of an identity card with photograph which was issued by the personnel department of the factory. Security officer was Hrdlicka, a Czech and a fanatical Communist.

Attachment: Sketch showing location of Skoda buildings under construction at Unicov.

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